

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on August 24, 2007. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-13, were pending. By way of the present response applicant has: 1) amended claims 1 and 12; and 2) added claim 14; and 3) canceled no claims. As such, claims 1-14 are now pending. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not descriptive and pointed out three typographical errors. The title and errors have been amended and applicant believes the applicable objections have been overcome.

The Examiner objected to the wording in claim 12 as unclear. Claim 12 has been amended and applicant believes the applicable objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1 176 821 by Victor Fielding (hereinafter "Fielding") in view of Korean Application Publication No. 10-2001-0016381 by Hwan-Su Park (hereinafter, "Park").

In reference to independent claim 1, the Examiner stated that

Fielding discloses at least a digital television converter (see at least FIG. 1) for a television apparatus which is incapable of reception of digital television broadcasts, said converter comprising: a connector for mating with a mating connector on said television apparatus so as to make electrical contact therewith and be supported thereby (see at least FIG. 1, items 10, 12), and a connector rear housing which cooperates with said connector to form an enclosure containing and mechanically supporting said tuner (see at least FIG. 1, items 4,6). Fielding does not specifically

disclose a tuner for selecting and demodulating a digital television channel and for supplying to said connector signals in a form suitable for use by said apparatus. However, Park teaches a multifunction integration type motherboard for a set-top box (see at least section Purpose), which comprises a digital tuner that allows a user to watch digital broadcasting on an analog television (see at least section Constitution). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Fielding, as suggested in [0030], to accept the circuit board of Park, as this would allow a user with an analog television to watch digital broadcasting without having to purchasing [sic.] a new digital television, a new STB and all necessary connectors and wiring for a new setup.

(Office Action dated August 24, 2007 p. 4).

Applicant respectfully submits, however, that amended claim 1 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Fielding and Park.

Fielding discloses a “conversion means which allows connection between apparatus with different connector formats.” (Fielding, p. 2, column 1, lines 4-5). The adapter disclosed by Fielding is intended “to allow a common printed circuit board to be used for all apparatus, regardless of the market, and hence type of connector required to be used, thereby overcoming the need for a new circuit board to be created for each connector format.” (Fielding, p. 2, column 2, lines 9-14). Fielding further discloses that “[t]he printed circuit board and adaptor if used are typically provided **as part of the apparatus within a housing which forms the external surface of the apparatus.**” (Fielding, p. 2, column 2, lines 46-49) (emphasis added). Significantly, Fielding includes the following disclosure: “scart connections 4, 6 on for the connection of a TV and on for a VCR to allow the flow of data between the same **via cable connections.**” (Fielding p. 3, column 4, lines 3-6) (emphasis added).

Park discloses a set top box with multifunction board for “receiving the digital broadcasting and ... for searching an internet in one mainboard for the set top box” (Park, Technical challenges of the Invention, page 4, paragraph 32, lines 4-5). The set top box disclosed by Park is “comprised of memory control unit...I/O unit including the hard disk drive, the universal serial bus...graphic card...audio card...LAN card...digital tuner...and the auxiliary storage device” (Park, Structure & Operation of the Invention, pp. 56, paragraphs 38, lines 1-9).

It is respectfully submitted that the combination Fielding and Park lack the limitations of amended claim 1 of “a connector for mating with a corresponding connector on said television apparatus so as to make electrical contact therewith and be mechanically supported thereby” and a digital television converter within “connector rear housing which cooperates with said connector to form a compact enclosure containing and mechanically supporting” said connector and tuner. (Currently amended claim 1). The device disclosed by Fielding is intended to be incorporated into the housing of an apparatus to allow for the conversion from one format of connector to one or more other types of connectors. The device disclosed by Park is a set top box tuner and internet browser for the television. Combining Fielding with the set top box disclosed in Park will yield a large apparatus with many of the same components as a personal computer (“PC”) to provide television broadcast and internet capabilities via one or more types of connectors (e.g. SCART and phono). The combination of Fielding and Park does not disclose a “compact enclosure” that is “mechanically supported” by its connector. (Currently amended claim 1).

Even if Fielding and Park were combined, such a combination would teach away from amended claim 1. The combination of Fielding and Park would yield a set top box with a digital tuner and internet capabilities, requiring the long list of hardware described above, that incorporated an adaptor within its housing attached to its circuit board to allow connection to various connector types via cables to other apparatuses. This combined device would require substantial additional space and/or the rearranging of existing television apparatus components. If the combination of Fielding and Park attempted to be mechanically supported by its connector, the cumbersome combination would likely either pull itself out of the connection or break off at the connection point.

Given that claims 2-9 and 11-13 are dependent claims with respect to amended claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and add additional limitations, applicant submits that claims 2-9 and 11-13 as amended are not obvious under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) in view of Fielding and Park.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fielding in view of Park.

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Fielding and Park in further view of EP 1 045 584 A2 by Mark Smith (hereinafter, "Smith"). Given that claim 10 is a dependent claim with respect to amended claim 1 and adds additional limitations, applicant submits that claim 10 as amended is not obvious under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) in view of Fielding, Park, and Smith.

New claim 14 is a dependent claim with respect to amended claim 1 and adds additional limitations. Applicant submits that claim 14 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) in view of Fielding and Park.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.


Applicant reserves all rights under the doctrine of equivalence.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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